

11 Nov. 1898

Dear Catriona

Thank you so much for your extremely flattering letter of Oct 17th. I'm sorry that I haven't responded until now, but I have been extremely busy with other obligations - including a ceiling for the Grand Salon of the Bess Hall that just might be installed about the same the Texas Audubon Society has its ~~Birth~~ celebration. The mural design is a Family River Woodland scene - looking up into trees containing my all kinds of Texas Birds!

I have read your letter several times in order to understand exactly what you were trying to tell me. If I interpreted it correctly, you are saying that you do believe that some sort of publication based on the original of Birds and Texas, ^{with part} some or all of the text, the original color plates and the additional remarks, - or some sort of "practical combination" thereof ought to be done and that the Texas Audubon Society is prepared to endorse it. You might be able to make some sort of limited financial commitment - if possible.

I genuinely appreciate your encouragement and the extent to which the Audubon Society is willing to lend a helping hand. I absolutely do not want to impose myself on you in any way that might take you away from your other responsibilities. The world will go on quite well enough without a smaller version of Birds and Texas. I do believe that it would be a stunning book and a real monument to Texas Birds and the celebration of the Centennial of the Texas State Audubon Society. I also believe that it stands a better than ^{even} ~~chance~~ chance for success if it is properly promoted and if it

is offered at a reasonable price, But,
Of course, there are no guarantees.

I have spent the last three weeks
reducing the folio pages of text for "Of Birds and
Trees" to regular letter size topped
pages, and in the process did some editing
and rewriting of our text just in case
it should be published. I have always
wanted a copy of this material that I could
hold in my hands. You mentioned that
you admired the mock up book that I
gave to Shannon Davies. I will send you
one or two different mock ups of potential
books.

If you are interested in helping to
produce a book to commemorate the
Centennial and the crowning exhibition
of our work may I suggest the following.
1) That we hire Shannon Davies to help
us determine the kind of publication that
will be practical, possible and affordable
and what the cost of such a book or
Catalogue would be and the time required
for printing and delivery date.

2) With the costs determined, I would
be willing to try to seek funding if Texas
Audubon will help as well. In order for me
to ask for contributions, this must first be an
official Audubon Society project. I might
be willing to put as much as 30,000
of my own money to start the project
along if I can hope to get that money
back first from sales. The Audubon Society
would keep all the remaining funds
generated from sales up to the cost of
the project. Then if there are additional
profits, we and the Audubon Society would
share these with percentage share to be
determined. I do know of several possible
contributors who might be interested,

but they must be shown a clear and well ~~planned~~ ^{written} ~~proposal~~ ^{proposal} that has clear Audulson support.

~~By October, all this looks too complex or like~~

3) I would be willing to do a significant amount of the promotional efforts and see that the book gets adequate exposure if the Audulson Society will do its share in alerting their membership and ~~other~~ ^{other} available opportunities to keep the book before the public.

By all this looks too grand and too complicated we should make the idea now and simply focus on the publication.

LDNDDN
SPAE LN 8679

ITEM 13 - 2,000

19 - 1,500